Amateur Radio—A National Resource
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

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Calendar of Events
April 1998

April 4th	**RARSFest Setup**; NC State Fairgrounds Jim Graham Building 12 PM.
April 4th	**RARS Breakfast meeting**; Griffin's Restaurant, 10 AM Program: Informal gathering for eyeball QSOs. All Hams welcome. Info: Call Woody KJ4SO, 848-1844
April 4th	**RARSFest Social**; Bring covered dish or desert. Call Fontella Spratley, KA4IZZ 662-1626 to avoid mass duplication of food.
April 5th	**RARSFest 98!!!!**; Our largest annual event. If you haven't volunteered, see last month's Exciter for who to call. We need your help NOW!
April 6th	**RARS General Meeting;** Forest Hill Baptist Church, 7:30 PM All are welcome! Info-contact RARS officer. (whew, what a weekend!)
April 20th	**RARS Advisory Board Meeting;** Forest Hill Baptist Church, 7:30 PM All RARS members welcome! Info-contact RARS officer. See page 2
April 27th	**Crystals Meeting;** Golden Corral, Hwy 70 W, Info- Lynn KO4QH, 787-1111

The RARS
EXCITER

No. 336, April 1998 RARS Webpage:http://rtpnet.org/~rars

AC4ZO Caught With Ham Radio At School



"So, like, are we gonna put up a j-pole or something and show them two meters"?

"Yep".

"Jeez, it's a shame we can't show 'em HF".

"We are".

"What?!! Are we gonna put up a vertical or something and set a schedule with somebody in Raleigh"?

"Nope. Were putting up a three element tri-bander, pointing that sucker North-East, and CQing for Europeans".

"Really? On single sideband? Do you think it will work"?

"I dunno. Never tried it before. I'll tell you next week".

This was part of a QSO I had with Mike, KE4OQO, a week or so ago. We had agreed to take on the job of exhibiting ham radio to four classes of fifth graders at Apex Elementary School during their Science Spectacular.

The Science Spectacular is a special school day, where stu-

See AC4ZO page 4

LOVE IS ON THE AIR!

Bill KM4UO, and Grace KF4TMS were married February 1. We wish them bountiful years of happy hamming together!

This relationship took off a bit more than a year ago when Grace accompanied her son-in-law to a RARS meeting. Grace thought that she recognized the handsome, articulate featured speaker, but alas, he was only

See Love page 7

Hamfest Social Needs Your Covered Dish

Fontella Spratley, KA4IZZ requests that all attending families bring your favorite covered dish or desert to the Hamfest Social Saturday April 4th. The RARSfest Social is unique among hamfests in this region and generates some of the warmest responses among attendees and dealers. Please call Fontella at 662-1626 to coordinate what to bring. Thankyou!

Exciter Editor Relocates to Houston Texas

When reading the above headline one might get a sense of Deja Vu. It's not that. Previous editor, Curt Phillips, W4CP (ex KD4YU) did accept a job working in the Lone Star State (specifically Houston) in the fall of 1997.

Its not a prescribed career path for Exciter Editors—just

See Editor page 2

Editor from page 1

coincidence. The Price family is moving back to Texas to be closer to immediate family. Unfortunately, in order to live there, one must leave here. The past eleven years have been filled with adventure, friendship, and fun—much of it associated with the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

Its strangely appropriate that my first and last (for now) activities supporting the club should involve the Exciter. Back in 1987, Vince Yakamavich, AA4MY had taken over the helm of Exciter Editor from longtime editor Ann Bradly. His first innovation was to use his computer for the task of entering and editing text for the Exciter. However, output of that text involved a 10 character per second (CPS) daisywheel printer, scissors and glue. Paste-up still involved paste.

At the time, I had barely started work at a 2-way radio manufacturer known as AEROTRON. When I arrived there, raw materials went into one end of the factory, and 2-way land mobile radio equipment came out the other. The 146.64 repeater is made up of AEROTRON equipment (soon to be retired after a long and honorable run). Hired as a tech-

See Editor page 6

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS), was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the Greater Triangle area.

The Objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique and to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

All persons interested in Amateur Radio are eligible to apply for membership to the club. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year. Regular membership dues prorate for new members.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the officers listed below from the newsletter editor, or at any RARS meeting.

President	Gary Pearce, KN4AQ 116 Waterfall Court Cary, NC 27511 (919) 380-7286 Email: kn4aq.gary@mms.net
Vice President	Pat Fix, KE4FCJ 324 Silverberry Court Cary, NC 27513 (919) 677-8320 Email: pfix@pagesz.net
Secretary:	Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO 211 Dundalk Way Cary, NC 27511 (919) 362-9456 jwittich@pagesz.net
Treasurer	Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ 7329 Barberry Court Raleigh, NC 27515 (919) 847-4641 wa4bpj@pagesz.net

The EXCITER is published monthly by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and is mailed at no cost to its members. Letters to the Editor, technical articles, items of interest to the ham community and guest editorials are actively solicited.

Articles published in the EXCITER do not necessarily represent the views or carry the endorsement of club officers, Board of Directors, EXCITER editor or the membership. Articles will be printed at the discretion of the editor, and no article will be published unless it is accompanied by the name(s) of the person(s) submitting the article.

All copy for publication in the EXCITER must be in the hands of the editor by the end of the Board of Director's meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Articles may be hand written, typed, or in electronic form as an ASCII file or on disk, transmitted via telephone modem, or over Internet to any one of the officers or the EXCITER editor.

Amateur Radio-related items for sale by the members can be advertised without charge for one issue, but may be resubmitted as often as desired. These ads must be noncommercial in nature.

Commercial ads will be run in return for the following donations to the club:

	Single Issue	Full Year
Business Card	$ 7.50	$ 75.00
Quarter Page	$ 11.26	$ 112.50
Third Page	$ 15.00	$ 150.00
Half Page	$ 22.50	$ 225.00
Full Page	$ 50.00	N/A

Commercial Ads must be of "camera-ready quality", and cannot be sent by Amateur Radio. Due to the reprographic process used, no color copy can be accepted.

Contributions, inquiries, comments concerning EXCITER content, advertisements, and mailing problems should be directed to your EXCITER editor:

Walter Price, KM4BU
420 Oak Ridge Rd.
Cary, NC 27511
(919) 481-3856
waltreid@aol.com

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Young Ladies' Radio League

SOUTHEASTERN REPEATER ASSOCIATION MEMBER

AMSAT

the Board.

New Business:

K4HF brought up an item about RARS Special Life Membership. He cited the contributions of certain RARS members, and a motion was made by KC4UPX, seconded by KE4FCJ that we recommend to the membership that we award Special Life Membership to K4MC, and WA4PEN. The motion passed with acclimation of the Board.

KN4AQ wished to appoint KE4OQO to the position of Net Manager. A motion was made by KM4BU, seconded by KD4YJV that we appoint KE4OQO to the position of Net Manager. This would be a non-Board position. The motion was carried.

The issue of use of the W4RNC call was finally heard, after being deferred from several previous meetings. KN4AQ explained the reasons that we obtained the call, and the value of using it on the RARS repeaters. A motion was made by KO4QH that we put the W4RNC call on the RARS repeaters. The motion was seconded by KM4BU, but was defeated.

The procedure for receiving members and guests at General Meetings was discussed. Changes are being made as Audrey Brown, WB4ZSM is stepping down after many years of service to the club. As various ideas were discussed, we all came to realize how valuable Audrey's service has been. K4HF moved that KE4FCJ take over and handle the function for a trial period of three months. The motion was seconded by KD4ACW and passed. At this point, a motion was made by KC4UPX, seconded by KE4FCJ that we recommend to the membership that we award Special Life Membership to WB4ZSM. The motion passed with acclimation of the Board.

KE4FCJ explained a situation to the Board concerning tables at the Church that are used by RARS. The church's tables are in poor repair, and they do not have enough. This causes difficulty for us sometimes at meetings. KE4FCJ moved that we purchase a quantity of ten tables for the church. The motion was seconded by W4VFJ, but withdrawn after discussion. Pat agreed to research the issue with the Church, and the item will be heard next month.

KD4ACW, speaking on behalf of the Hamfest Committee, explained how the expenses surrounding the fest have changed in recent years. KD4ACW then made a motion that the Board allow the Hamfest Committee to increase the seed money to $6K. The motion was seconded by AC4ZO and was carried. After more discussion of various aspects of the situation, a motion was made by KE4FCJ, seconded by W4VFJ that we recommend to the membership to approve the transfer of funds from the Club to the Hamfest Committee to bring the hamfest account to the new balance. The motion passed.

At this point, the meeting had to vacate the meeting room by our agreement with the Church, so on motion by KO4QH, seconded by KD4ACW, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO - Interim Secretary
[Now officially secretary —ed]

Robert P. Holmes
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Motor Vehicle Negligence
& Workplace Injuries

Smith & Holmes, P.C. (919) 832-5000
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Raleigh, NC 27602 **KE4FUD**

Minutes of the RARS February Board Meeting

February 17, 1998

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on February 17. The meeting was called to order by KN4AQ at 7:35 PM. Members present were: KD4ACW, KN4AQ, KM4BU, KE4FCJ, K4HF, KO4QH, WD4RDT, KC4UPX, W4VFJ, KD4YJV, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 16.

The agenda was distributed, and additions were listed.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed, and the Secretary was directed to amend them. On motion by K4HF, seconded by KE4FCJ, the minutes were approved as amended.

Officers' Reports:

AC4ZO gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of WA4BPJ, and said that the RARS membership is 311.

Committee Reports:

KC4UPX gave the FM Committee report. He said that some of the parts have been received for the antenna installation on the new Bayleaf tower, and that more parts will arrive this week. The date for removal of the old tower is slipping, and this is giving us more time before vacating the building. All necessary paperwork has been filed with the Department Of Transportation. Also, work on the new repeater for 146.64 is progressing well in the hands of K4ITL. The existing .64 machine will soon be moved to a temporary location on a 60 foot tower near the fairgrounds.

KO4QH reported on the Education Department. She said that registration for the Spring Class has been going well, but that one additional instructor is still needed. Lynn also said that the Education Department is about to place an order with the ARRL for Now You're Talking on tape.

KE4FCJ gave the report on the Membership Services Committee. She said that Audrey Brown, WB4ZSM, would like to step down after many years of service to the Club. The item was listed under New Business, and was deferred until later in the meeting.

KD4ACW gave the Hamfest Committee report. She said that the flyers have been mailed. Credit positive action on the part of N5UTR and KD4ACW for this happening so smoothly. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2 at AC4ZO.

In the Public service Report, KD4YJV announced that the Special Olympics Basketball competition is coming up later in February, and that the Eastern North Carolina chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is asking for us for four events this Spring.

KM4BU reported on the Exciter. He said that he is receiving articles several days past the deadline, and while he appreciates the articles, their late arrival makes his job very difficult. A discussion followed that covered how best to send stuff, and fonts, and files, and all.

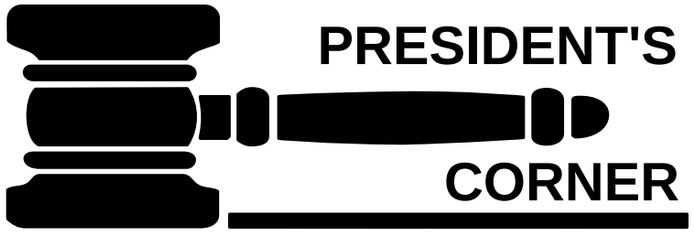
KE4OQO said a few words as Net Manager. He said that the RARS Two Meter Net has a new script, provided by KD4ISC.

KN4AQ announced that the RARS Email list server is in service and working well. It now has about 45 subscribers, but the growth has slowed.

Planning for the March Birthday Party and Awards Ceremony is progressing well, according to KD4ACW. She has placed the order for award materials, and food. Ice cream scoopers are needed.

Old Business:

KC4UPX addressed the issue of our tax status. The lack of status 501C-3 has once again caused us undue hardship. No action was taken by



By Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

W4RNC Goes On The Shelf

Tradition outweighed Vanity at the February board meeting, as the RARS Directors decided to keep W4DW as the callsign on the 146.64 repeater. Our vanity call W4RNC will be put on the shelf, available for use whenever we want it. The board was conflicted a bit in reaching a decision, or maybe they just didn't want to hurt my feelings as the primary (sole?) proponent of the vanity call. But in the end, tradition won out... RARS IS W4DW. If we put up a new repeater or packet node someday, or operate a special event station, you'll hear W4RNC on the air. Menwhile, I slip it in on the CW ID on .64 now and then.

GO WEST, YOUNG EDITOR RARS is losing it's second Exciter Editor in a row to Houston, Texas. Yep, pardner, first Curt W4CP (aka K4CP, KD4YU) moved to Houston after editing the Exciter for two years. Now, Walter KM4BU will be moving there after editing the Exciter for four months. I'd ask for any volunteers to replace Walter, but the way I figure the timetable, that person ALREADY lives in Houston, so I'll just be advertising there directly. But if any of you do have a hankerin' to change your style of barbecue, let me know... before the moving van arrives at your house.

We'll miss ya, Walter.. and Peggy N4SSS, too. Walter is a "Past President" of RARS, and has been involved in club operation for longer than I've been around. Houston owes us a couple!

AWARDS Speaking of involvement, congratulations to all who received awards at the March meeting, and particularly to Bob Corns K4MC, Ed Alderman WA4PEN, and Audrey Brown WB4ZSM, who became Life Members. All have been contributing to the club since its early days.

WB4ZSM RETIRES For many years, Audrey has been greeting you as you arrived at club meetings, and getting your name into the door prize drawing. Audrey told us that she'd like to retire from that position. We can't replace her, but Pat KE4FCJ, our VP, will be handling the registration job in addition to welcoming members and guests as they arrive.

Thanks for the years of service, Audrey. The old timers tell me you've done a lot for the club over the years, including the job I just graduated from in Public Information. Audrey got RARS into the paper and on Radio and TV regularly. No wonder they already knew a lot about us when I started calling them with stories.

HAMFEST Contrary to both rumors and requests, Cyndi KD4ACW will NOT be rollerblading around the hamfest in her wedding dress. Too bad, I know, but I'm not allowed to see the dress before the wedding. Otherwise, she'd do it.

The RARSfest is Sunday, April 5th, of course. Thanks to all who've volunteered to help. It should be a lot of fun. We always need more help, of course, so if you don't have a job, ask Cyndi how you can sign up. But don't wait for the next club meeting — that will be AFTER the fest! See you there.

73, Gary KN4AQ

AC4ZO Caught With Ham Radio At School *from page 1*

dents spend the day moving from one classroom to another as they receive forty minute presentations on whatever topic their teacher signed them up for. This puts most students in an exceptionally good mood. Makes 'em fun to be around. The exhibitor sets up in one room, and the classes come to him. It's great.

It happened like this: The parent volunteer had called numerous times last week confirming and re-confirming that we're really going to be there to "do" amateur radio. "Yes", I said, "We WILL be there, now will you PLEASE tell me my room number so I can set up some stuff early in the morning"? She informed me that she will be there at 8:00a, that classes start at 9, and an hour ought to be enough for anybody to setup. I tried to explain the mechanics of assembling and erecting a large antenna, and the more I talked, the more frightened she became. I called another volunteer and got my room number.

Mike had volunteered to help, sayin as how he would be doing the exact same thing four weeks later at the next school down the road. Mike arrived at my house about 6:45 this morning (February 27), and helped me load the last of the stuff in the truck. A short drive from here over to Apex, and we were assembling the Mosley TA-33 Senior shortly after 7:00a. The parent volunteer arrived about 8:15, and I remember saying to myself "I'm glad we're well underway with the setup... there would never be enough time if we started now". Preparation, my friends, is the key.

The last cord was plugged in with about five minutes to spare, and we all paused for the Pledge of Allegiance. I don't believe I've heard that for many a year. It was refreshing.

At precisely 9:00a, the first class was in place, and we were underway with the first of four classes that day. They all four went pretty much the same way. First a few questions for them, to see who knows someone with a ham radio. (This is to identify a helper). Then a brief explanation of why people become hams, which we all know is so we can play with all those cool toys, then the fun begins.

Two meter HTs were up first. No problem getting volunteers here, I'll tell ya! They all wanted to have a go. They learned about call signs, and were on the air. They quickly discovered how little they actually have to say when they have an audience. It was great. Next, a repeater contact. Ya know, we're lucky at RARS... it's always easy to get someone to talk to on .64, and the demonstrations all went well.

We looked at safety belts. They thought Jeff and Mike engaging in a tog-o-war, each with a safety belt on, and roped together at the rear was a funny sight. (Neither of us pulled the britches off the other, but Mike is stronger than I am). We looked at hard hats. We looked at radio-controlled models. We said one anothers names in phonetics. Some of them tapped out their name in Morse code. In one class they were so fascinated with code that everyone in the class had to try their name before we could move on. And then, the big one. The HF demonstration.

With an idea of what phonetics are for, and expecting the worst, they turned their ears toward the TS-850s connected to what many of them thought was the biggest antenna they have ever seen. And with ten minutes left if the class, I called CQ on 20 meters. Our curiosity about whether or not HF was doable in a school program was about to be satisfied. After one rather short CQ... nothing. Maybe a longer CQ. Again nothing. This doesn't look good. Let's move from 20 to 15 meters and try there. Thank goodness for a

coordinator, KE4ZNU; Librarian, KD4ZVW; Refreshment bringers, KD4ACK, KO4TV, KE4DRL, KE4DRJ; Crystals, KO4QH; and the Public Service Volunteers.

The following certificates were awarded: 1997 Exciter Editor, W4CP; Packet Cluster Sysop, KA3PSK; 1997 Public Service Director, N4YTO; Elected Secretary, KU4HM; 1997 Rarsfest Chairman, WA4MJF; Special Service Club Awards Manager, AA4VK; 1997 FM Repeater Chairman, KC4UPX; RARS Email list server Manager, KJ4SO.

The following plaques were awarded: Secretary 1994-1997, AC4ZO; President 1996-1997, KD4ACW; Special Life Membership, K4MC; Special Life Membership, WA4ZSM; Special Life Membership and President's Award, WA4PEN. This concluded the awards presentation at 9:16p. Door prizes went to KE4FCJ, KC4UPX, W4VFJ, KE4NGM, and N4YRD. On motion by AC4ZO, 9:22 PM.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO Acting Secretary

Regular RARS Meeting February 3, 1998

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on February 3, 1998 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue. The meeting was scheduled to begin at a special start time, and was called to order at 7:08p by President Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. Gary welcomed the members present and guests., and then announced that the program for the evening would be "SkyWarn Spotter Training", so the customary agenda would be dispensed with for this meeting. Lynn, KO4QH, announced that the RARS Spring classes are scheduled to begin on February 23, and that enrolment is very low this time. She asked the members present to assist with recruiting students. Cyndi, KD4ACW, then said a few words about the hamfest planning. Things are progressing on schedule, and as usual, many volunteers are needed. Signup sheets were provided, and tickets were on sale. At this point, 7:16p, Gary announced that the remainder of the business would be handled after the training, and he introduced the speaker for the evening: George Lemons, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service. The training was completed at 9:01p, and the business was continued. Mike WA4BPJ gave the treasurers report, and said that RARS membership is about 306. Gary announced that the Club Secretary has had to resign his position for medical reasons. A Special Election will be held at the March meeting. Until a new Secretary can be elected, the duties will be handled by Jeff, AC4ZO. The President then said that the March meeting will be the anual RARS birthday party and awards cerimony. Jeff, AC4ZO made the following announcements: Firstly, that the participation pins have arrived for the November Sweepstakes contest. The pins were distributed; And lastly, that he has available at the front table some windshield stickers that list the 146.64 emergency autodial numbers. The stickers were given to anyone interested. Bernard, KC4UPX gave an update on the repeater moves. He said that the 146.64 machine will have to be temporarily moved to a 60 foot tower near Blue Ridge road on the West side of Raleigh. He then answered questions from the membership. Gary, retaking the podium, said a few words about the Skywarn program. He explained briefly how it works, and how hams fit in as spotters. There were no door prizes awarded at this meeting. On motion by AC4ZO, seconded by KD4ISC, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO Acting Secretary



Regular March RARS Meeting

March 3, 1998

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on March 3, 1998 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue. Members and guests enjoyed cake and ice cream at 7:30 PM and the meeting was called to order at 8:04p by President Gary Pearce, KN4AQ.

Gary welcomed the members present and guests. Jeff AC4ZO gave the treasurers report in the absence of WA4BPJ. He said that RARS membership is about 311. A Special Election was held in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society. The Secretary has informed the Board that he must resign his position for health reasons. The Nominating Committee put forth the name of Jeff Wittich for the position. The floor was opened for additional nominations, and on motion by KO4TV, seconded by KF4JKQ, the nominations were closed. On motion by N4ZVU, Jeff was elected to the position of Secretary with acclimation of the membership.

KD4ACW announced the upcoming Rarsfest. AC4ZO waved the Icom T2A incentive prize about, and all committee chairs were introduced. Cyndi then took questions from the membership about the hamfest.

Lynn, KO4QH, announced that the RARS Spring classes are underway, and that there are 24 students. The class test session is scheduled for April 2, and will be open to the public.

Gerry, KD4YJV, announced four upcoming public service events. Volunteers are needed for these events on April 18, and 19. The are all four walks for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Bernard, KC4UPX gave an update on the repeater moves. He said that the new tower is up at Bayleaf, and that the 220 and 440 machines will be moving to it as soon as the new antennas are received. The .64 machine will not be able to go on the NCHP tower as soon as he hoped,and it will have to be temporarily moved to a 60 foot tower near Blue Ridge road on the West side of Raleigh.

Mingo, KE4NKY, announced that he has applications for several scholarships that he is applying for from various ham related organizations. He described the scholarships, and explained what he needed in the way of signatures so that he could obtain them at the meeting.

Woody, KJ4SO, announced that the RARS ham breakfast is coming up this Saturday at Griffin's restaurant in the North Market Square shopping center at 10:00a until noon. Also, the RARS Email list server is in service and is open to all RARS members.

The awards presentations began at 8:38p. Gary began by saying a few words about the state of amateur radio in 1969 when the Club was founded. Then, he explained that the awards were in three levels: verbal recognition, certificates, and plaques.

The following received verbal recognition: Current VP, KE4FCJ; current Treasurer, WA4BPJ; Education Director, KO4QH; Publicity Director, KN4AQ; SIG Coordinator, KA3PSK; Repeater Chairman, KC4UPX; Directors at Large, W4VFJ, WD4RDT, WA4PEN; ARRL Liaison, K4HF; Hamfest staff, WA4MJF, KD4ACW, WA4LHE, N4YTO, KA4NSA, KA3PSK, KJ4SO, K4HF, KM4BU, KO4TV, KE4OQO, AD4UL, KE4FCJ, KD4ZVW, K4SAN, KN4AQ; RARS Net control operators; RARS VEs; Class instructors, KO4QH, N4BYO, WA4BPJ, AB4OZ, AC4ZO, AB4EL, NA4G, N4ZBB, KE4ZNU, W4CP, KA3PSK, KN4AQ, W4VFJ, N4HAF; Auctioneer, W0UCE; Webmaster, KF4IUP; Elmer

Tribander! One CQ call on 15 and there it was! A DL7, and he was loud. Very loud, in fact. The copy was very easy, and when he said he was in Germany, the faces in the class made the whole day worthwhile. Even the teacher was excited/amazed/awed by it all. And myself too, and not least of all. With Mike writing the pertinent data (Call, Name, Location) on the chalk board, I enjoyed a nice brief QSO with a fellow in Germany who was more than happy to be talking to a class of fifth graders.

The remaining classes went much the same way. In each case, the last ten minute demo, on HF, was just IT! The second class: Two CQs then an answer from a DL3 located between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. The third class: One CQ and answers from everywhere! Of course I picked out the DX, another German. By the time the fourth class arrived, they came in asking if we were going to talk to somebody in Germany. "Hmm", I thought, "They're communicating among themselves, and without radios". "I dunno", I said. "We'll try". They were satisfied.

But this fourth class... they seemed different. They were, well, more fun. They even laughed at my corn-ball joke. I really liked them. When it came time for the HF demo, again I CQed on 15, and again an answer. From a W0 in Colorado. We exchanged pleasantries, and when I told him he was talking to a fifth grade class, he just kept on with the jargon, and technical gibberish, like how many wavelengths his dipole was fed from the end and all. It was terrible. I explained that we were about out of time, and with his permission we would like to try some DX, and fortunately, he said goodbye. No need to CQ though, EA3SH, JB, in Barcelona Spain was listening and heard the whole thing. He called me, with a 20-over-9 signal. He knew what we were doing, and did he ever talk to the kids the way they could understand. There was no fading on his signal and he made it very clear that he was in Spain, a long, long, way from Apex. Me mentioned the time, and how he was getting ready for dinner, even though we hadn't had lunch yet. He talked about how Barcelona might be different from their near city of Raleigh. And he told them of his own children. I couldn't believe this guy. I could not have asked for a better QSO. The kids were absolutely riveted. They were silent, and listened. I said 73 to JB as the bell indicated the end of the class. Their teacher thanked Mike and myself profusely, and they left.

Seconds later, when the room was empty, I had a feeling I have never felt before. It wasn't pride, it wasn't accomplishment, and it wasn't relief. Fact is, I don't know what it was, but I know I had to sit down and absorb the feelings of the moment. I guess it was just passion. For ham radio, and for teaching, and for the kids. They are truly wonderful. And I hope I get the call again soon.

As usual, here's another one from the log at AC4ZO that is rude in it's length, so let me just leave you with this: When you need a serious pick-me-up, give yourself a break... take ham radio to a school.

Thanks to Mike, KE4OQO.
Jeff - AC4ZO

Did you know...

That you can have an Elmer's Award sent to the ham of your choosing? Just send a letter to The American Radio Relay League Headquarters, and tell them who you would like to certificate made out to. Include a check or money order for $5 and your Elmer will receive a certificate in a few weeks.

If you're a RARS member, the Club can do much of this for you. Just call the Secretary and let him know who you would like an Elmer Certificate sent to, and the Club handles the rest. Questions or Comments? Call Jeff - AC4ZO, 919-362-9456.

Editor from page 6

nical writer, I began my career there as Tech Pubs Manager ED Alderman (WA4PEN) was retiring for the second time.

Shortly after I started, first generation Desktop Publishing equipment was purchased to assist with the production of technical manuals. There were two Macintosh SE computers, a LAN, a single 20 MB hard disk drive (shared on the LAN) and a 300 dpi LaserWriter Plus printer. It was a fabulous innovation to the process. With all of this new equipment and an ache to learn how to use it to its fullest, I volunteered to assist Vince in taking the EXCITER all electronic. I didn't know at the time, but this was a continuation of an AEROTRON tradition of support for RARS. An AEROTRON employee who was a member of RARS published the first years of the EXCITER using the in-house print shop at AEROTRON (Ask Ed who that was).

So Vince would come over after hours or on Saturday with his data files and papers and we would sit in front of one of original style Macintosh computers and layout the Exciter. Midway through the process we would stop the composing to eat the biggest submarine sandwiches Vince could find. After about six months of this process, another club member who was an employee of Amdahl Computer (ask Vince who) donated a copy of Aldus Pagemaker for Windows 2.0 to the club (does anyone remember Windows 2.0?). With that software, and the printers at his work, Vince moved the process to his home computer. Though I missed our sessions, it allowed Vince to work when convenient. My involvement with the Exciter ceased except for a few guest editor occasions.

The last few issues have again been published using Macintosh equipment and Adobe Pagemaker 6.0 (though now its not a requirement) . We have come a long way in the last 10 years haven't we? As a club we certainly have. Over the years there have been waves of new faces who seize the day and step up to the traditions of service and education that are part of RARS. Your Exciter editor often serves as the initial contact point for these traditions. It's an important job but fun. If you have an interest in becoming the next Exciter editor, you may contact me or Chuck Littlewood for questions. Chuck is heading up the nominating committee to fill the Exciter position. He can be reach by phone at 872-6555, I can be reached either directly by email (waltreid@aol.com) or through a club officer (see page 2). Until you hear otherwise, keep those articles rolling in to me (see page 2). Your next Exciter may be made in Texas. Thanks for all your support.

73 de Walter Price, KM4BU

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Love from page 1

introduced with his first name and call sign. Grace asked her son-in-law to find out the man's full name. This took several months of reminders from Grace (kids these days are easily sidetracked), but finally Grace learned that Bill KM4UO was sometimes known as Bill Hutchins by non-hams. Armed with this information, Grace phoned Bill and they established that they were indeed the pair of 20-somethings who had dated a few years ago when Bill attended Columbia and Grace studied at The Juilliard School.

Grace's call sign is newer than Bill's, Grace having earned her ticket just this last year. Rumor has it that it was part of a prenuptial agreement —or was is simply Grace's determination to never be just an XYL?

Tnx Judy Furr DFMA Link

Fox Hunt News!

CQ VHF mag has declared the weekend of April 25,26, 1998 and foxhunt national weekend. For those interested I plan to hide a fox on one of those days somewhere between I40 and Jordon Lake and between hwy 55 and Farrington rd. Foxhunters should meet at Homestead shopping senter on hwy 54 at 10 am for start of the hunt.

Ed has asked me to find out which date, April 25 or April 26, would be best for most of the people who would like to come, so if you will let me know, I will tally the votes and will let everyone know the results. This will be a 2 meter fox, so you will need a 2 meter receiver and antenna to participate. Ed has told us the area where the fox will be, so you may wish to obtain a good map of the area and possibly familiarize yourself with the area. Those who are familiar with the roads in a fox hunt area definitely have an advantage over those who are not familiar with the roads.

A magnetic compass may be useful, and a directional antenna of some kind will be useful. If you do not have any of these items, please let me know so we can try to make arrangements. We want everyone to learn something!

It is best for each hunter team to have at least two people or more. The driver needs to just drive safely; the DFing and the map-handling need to be done by others on the team. If you don't have a partner, come and join up with someone at the site.

Good DFing practices will be more important than speed on this fox hunt. If everyone is interested, a brief demonstration DF techniques may be provided

It would be nice for the winner to have a prize of some kind, so do we have any volunteers who would like to round up a small prize for the winner?

Well, it seems like we're generating more interest and picking up speed. Let's have some fun!

73, Lyn, W4WDN

Members Can Bid On Surplus Computer

The following described computer, purchased for the RARS-Fest committee has been determined to be surplus property.

AMD 5X86 133MH z CPU
486 Class PCI Mother Board
1.44 MB Floppy Drive
IDE 1.0 GB Hard Drive
16MB 72 pin SIMM RAM
14" SVGA Monitor
104 Key Keyboard
MS Mouse
8X IDE CD-ROM
Internal Tape Drive 800
Mini-Tower Case
230 Watt Power Supply
PCI Video W/1MB Trident
Windows 95

Closed bids may be submitted by members at the April Meeting or verbally by leaving the information on the RARS Hotline. 919-387-9836 Verbal bids will be transcribed to hard copy and placed with other bids to be opend during the April meeting. Any questions can be answered by Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, 362-9456.